

## Message Text

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54

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 AID-05 FAA-00

AGR-05 SP-02 DOTE-00 SS-15 A-01 FBO-02 L-03 PRS-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 NSC-05 SY-05 OC-05

CCO-00 PA-01 /076 W

----- 112124

O 091400Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 098

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL KADUNA

AMCONSUL IBADAN

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USIA/IAA FOR DAWSON

PASS AID, FAA, FAS/USDA

BRUSSELS FOR FAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, PFOR, NI

SUBJECT: FMG OCCUPATION OF EMBASSY ANNEX: SITREP TWO

REF: LAGOS 6488

1. AT ABOUT TIME SITREP ONE (REFTEL) WAS BEING TRANSMITTED, MEA PERMSEC IYALLA TELEPHONED TO ASK THAT I MEET WITH HIM URGENTLY. DCM AND I HAVE JUST COME FROM THAT MEETING, IN WHICH HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY DEPUTY PROTOCOL DIRECTOR MGBOKWERE.

2. IYALLA TERMED MILITARY OCCUPATION OF MOLONEY STREET ANNEX PROPERTY "MOST UNFORTUNATE DEVELOPMENT", AND SAID AS SOON AS  
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HE HAD BEEN ABLE CONTACT APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES THIS MORNING,

HE HAD ARRANGED FOR REMEDIAL ACTION TO BE TAKEN, INSTRUCTIONS HAD BEEN GIVEN, AND FMG TROOPS "ARE NOW BEING WITHDRAWN" FROM ANNEX PREMISES AND NORMAL US MISSION OPERATIONS COULD BE RESUMED IMMEDIATELY. HE APOLOGIZED FOR HIS INABILITY TO RESPOND TO MY REPEATED REQUESTS OVER PAST WEEK TO MEET WITH HIM, STATING SOMEWHAT LAMELY THAT HE HAD TRIED TO RETURN MY CALLS WITHOUT SUCCESS. HE THEN ADDED THAT TWO MEA STAFFERS INVOLVED IN THIS MATTER HAD BEEN ILL, THUS HINDERING MEA'S ABILITY MEET PROMPTLY WITH US. HE PLEADED THE SAME EXPLANATION FOR MEA'S FAILURE PROVIDE US THE OFT REQUESTED WRITTEN NOTIFICATION OF FMG INTENT REGARDING THE EMBASSY ANNEX PROPERTY.

3. I REITERATED OUR READINESS MEET AT ANY TIME TO DISCUSS MODALITIES OF MOVE, SUGGESTING THAT OUR RESPECTIVE STAFFS MEET TOGETHER TOMORROW IN ORDER PERMIT IYALLA AND ME TO MEET AGAIN PRIOR MY PROPOSED DEPARTUHE FROM LAGOS JULY 13. IYALLA ASKED MGBOKWERE SET UP DISCUSSION AT MEA WITH DCM AND OTHERS FROM EMBASSY. THIS MEETING NOW SCHEDULED FOR 12-30 P.M. JULY 10. IYALLA AND I HAVE ARRANGED MEET TOGETHER ON SATURDAY, JULY 12.

4. IYALLA REITERATED FMG'S WILLINGNESS "BE FLEXIBLE" CONCERNING ONGOING US OCCUPANCY OF NEW OKOTIE EBOH QUARTERS AFTER THE EXPIRATION OF EXISTING LEASE AT MOLONEY STREET. HE SAID FMG WISHED APPROACH THIS QUESTION IN SAME SPIRIT OF DIALOGUE AND COOPERATION THAT EMBASSY HAD RECENTLY DEMONSTRATED REGARDING THE PRINCIPLE OF PROMPT EVACUATION OF MOLONEY STREET QUARTERS. AT THE SAME TIME, HE SAID FMG HAD NO REPEAT NO FUNDS TO FINANCE OUR PRESENT MOVE. I SAID WE HAD CAREFULLY INSPECTED NEW QUARTERS, HAD CONSULTED WITH PERTINENT TECHNICAL AND PUBLIC UTILITIIES PERSONNEL, AND WOULD BE IN POSITION AT THURSDAY'S MEETING TO PROVIDE REASONABLY DETAILED ESTIMATES OF NECESSARY COSTS, TIMING, ETC.

5. I TOLD IYALLA I FELT COMPELLED TO GIVE HIM THE EMBASSY NOTE THAT I HAD BROUGHT WITH ME, MAKING OUR CONCERN REGARDING MILITARY OCCUPANCY OF ANNEX PREMISES A MATTER OF OFFICIAL RECORD. I SAID THAT, GIVEN HIS QUICK AND EFFECTIVE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO MY EARLY MORNING PHONE CALLS, WE WOULD CONSILER THE NOTE AS OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS EVEN THOUGH DELIVERED FOR THE RECORD. IYALLA SAID HE "WOULD VERY MUCH PREFER" NON-DELIVERY OF THE NOTE. I SAID I HAD ALREADY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INFORMED WASHINGTON THAT I WAS DELIVERING IT BUT I WAS WILLING TO HOLD IT BACK. I MADE CLEAR THAT WE NONETHELESS VIEWED THIS MILITARY INCIDENT AS A SERIOUS MATTER THAT WOULD HAVE RISKED COMPROMISING OUR ONGOING DISCUSSIONS OF THE PROBLEM WITH MEA. IYALLA SAID HE UNDERSTOOD OUR CONCERN.

6. WE HAVE REVISED PRESS QUERY RESPONSES AS FOLLOWS (SEE PARA 8 REFTEL). A FINAL SENTENCE HAS BEEN ADDED, "IN SUBSEQUENT DIS-

CUSSIONS MEA INFORMED THE EMBASSY THAT THE TROOPS WERE BEING WITHDRAWN AND NORMAL MISSION OPERATIONS COULD BE RESUMED." IN ADDITION, LAST SENTENCE OF PREVIOUS STATEMENT HAS BEEN REVISED TO READ: "LODGED" INSTEAD OF "HAS LODGED."

7. EMBASSY LEAVES TO DEPARTMENT'S DISCRETION WHETHER TO CALL IN AMBASSADOR GARBA AND IF SO AT WHAT LEVEL.

8. EMBASSY'S CURRENT VIEWS CONCERNING BARGAINS POSSIBLY TO BE STRUCK IN SATURDAY'S MEETING WITH IYALLA FORTHCOMING BY SEPTTEL.

9. AS OF 1345 TROOPS ARE STILL ON PROPERTY. WE HAVE INFORMED MEA OF THIS.

10. COMMENT: DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE WHAT LIES BEHIND FMG'S SUDDEN MIDNIGHT OCCUPATION OF MOLONEY PREMISES AND NOW PROMPTLY PROMISED WITHDRAWAL THEREFROM. WE ARE INCLINED ACCEPT ON ITS MERITS IYALLA'S CRITICISM OF THE OCCUPATION AS "UNFORTUNATE." IT IS POSSIBLE HE KNEW IN ADVANCE BUT WE DOUBT IT. WE RATHER BELIEVE THAT OBASANJO THOUGHT THIS A USEFUL PLOY BY WHICH TO ENHANCE HIS OWN POSITION OR THAT OF MILITARY AUTHORITIES VIS-A-VIS CIVILIAN MEA WHICH HE MAY VIEW AS INEFFICIENT , DILATORY OR NEEDLESSLY CONCERNED WITH NICETIES OF DIPLOMATIC PRACTICE. HAD IYALLA BEEN IN LEAGUE WITH MILITARY, WE SURPECT HE WOULD HAVE MADE A SHOW OF DISAVOWING OBASANJO'S ACTIONS INSTEAD HE SEEMED EMBARRASSED AND ANXIOUS (FOR A CHANGE) TO BE RESPONSIVE TO OUR DESIRE TO GET ON WITH THE DISCUSSIONS.  
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